

**Chapter 14 - Assignment 5: The *Republic* (Book VIII) – [2]**

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In order to answer the following questions, read Book 8 of Plato's *Republic* (Πολιτεία) on pages 23–25 in Chapter 14.

1. Socrates said, “When someone first becomes a protector, they smile at everyone, and they make many promises. By cancelling everyone’s debts and giving rich people’s property to the poor, the tyrant wins over the affection of their people.” This brings to mind the story of the *seisachtheia* (σεισάχθεια). (See page 27 in Chapter 3.)

(i) How was Solon of Athens *like* the tyrant that Socrates described?

(ii) How was Solon of Athens *unlike* the tyrant that Socrates described?

2. On pages 49–50 in Chapter 3, review the wheat field story. According to Socrates, what would have happened to the sage Periander of Corinth if he were to have taken the advice of tyrant Thrasybulus of Miletus? (See page 24 in Chapter 14.)

3. What are the three reasons why a would-be tyrant would want to wage war?

(i)

(ii)

(iii)

4. How is a tyrant like the exact opposite of a physician (or medical doctor)?

5. According to Socrates, there are two ways that a tyrant can stay in power.

(i) According to Socrates, how can a tyrant use *foreigners* to stay in power?

(ii) According to Socrates, how can a tyrant use *locals* to stay in power?